JUMP
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OPI
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MontCAS
Montana Comprehensive Assessment System
January 2008 Newsletter

Spring 2008 MontCAS Testing Schedule

February 11 – March 26, 2008	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10 in Science (It is recommended that the first week of this window be used for training, becoming familiar with the materials, and organizing the testing.)
March 3 – March 26, 2008	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10 in Science.

Welcome It is a pleasure to welcome Gayle Allen to the assessment staff as the administrative specialist. She can be reached at gallen2@mt.gov OR 406-444-3511

Statewide Assessment Conferences
February 4–5, 2008 and April 28-29, 2008

- **February 4-5, 2008: Test Administrator Training Conference**
  - Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena.
  - The Registration fee is now $25. Online conference registration is https://rn02.msu.montana.edu/opi
  - Early check-in and late registration at the Red Lion is on Sunday, February 3 from 1pm – 3 pm.
  - The conference begins on February 4 with check in and a continental breakfast at 7:15 am. It ends after lunch at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, February 5.
  - Breakfasts and lunches will be provided.
  - The conference agenda is online
    - http://www.opi.mt.gov/PUB/PDF/Assessment/conf/08FebAgenda.pdf

⬩ April 28-29, 2008: OPI State Assessment Conference
Connecting Assessments and Classrooms

- This conference is intended for Montana educators including teachers, curriculum directors, test coordinators, department/grade level chairs, administrators, and staff responsible for entering data into Achievement in Montana (AIM), the OPI student achievement system.
- Two keynote speakers will highlight the conference. Dr. W. James Popham is a nationally-recognized expert on formative assessment. Dr. Scott Marion is a member of the Montana Technical Advisory Committee which provides expertise on technical testing issues. He is nationally recognized for his research and expertise on assessment and accountability issues.
- The conference website is http://www.opi.mt.gov/AssessConf/Index.html

MontCAS—CRT and CRT-Alternate
CRT and CRT-Alternate Training Materials Are Online

PowerPoint training presentations in black and white and without narration are online for those of you who wish to begin training early. CDs with narrated color presentations will arrive in systems February 7-11, 2008.

Some of the presentations are divided into several sessions, so that you can view them separately or move from one to another. You may also wish to arrange or rearrange the slides for your training sessions.

Also online are the manuals for test coordinators and for the administration of the CRT.

Below are the lists of PowerPoints and manuals and their links.

- **CRT Materials and PowerPoints**
  Link: http://www.opi.mt.gov/assessment/Phase2.html#TA
  Spring 2008 CRT Test Coordinator's Manual
  Spring 2008 CRT Training PowerPoints:
  1. *Overview and 2008 Update*
  2. *Test Coordinators' Responsibilities*
  3. *Barcode Labels and Coding*
- **CRT Test Administrator Manuals, Grade 3-8 and 10**
  http://www.opi.mt.gov/Assessment/Phase2.html#TA
- **CRT-Alternate Materials and PowerPoints**
  Link: http://www.opi.mt.gov/assessment/Phase2.html#TAAlt
  Spring 2008 CRT-Alternate Test Administration Manual
  Spring 2008 CRT-Alternate Training PowerPoints:
  1. *Introduction*
  2. *Test Structure and Implementation*
  3. *Strategies for Successful Test Administration*
  4. *What's New for 2008*
  5. *Evaluation*
- **Accommodations**
  Link: http://www.opi.mt.gov/Assessment/Phase2.html#Accom
  2008 Accommodations Manual
  Spring 2008 PowerPoint: *Guidelines and Procedures for CRT Accommodations*
- **Test Security**
  2008 Guidelines and Procedures for Test Security
  http://www.opi.mt.gov/PUB/PDF/Assessment/CRT/TA/08MontCASTSGuidelines.pdf
  Spring 2008 PowerPoint: *Guidelines and Procedures for Test Security*
  http://www.opi.mt.gov/PUB/PDF/Assessment/CRT/TA/08TSGuidelines.ppt

CRT and CRT-Alternate Checklist for Materials

The following checklist was published in the December *JUMP*. Please note two changes:

The addition of the receipt of CRT-Alternate Materials Kits and CDs to the February 7-11 shipment from Measured Progress and

The change from February 7-11 to February 11- 15 for receipt of Test Security materials from OPI.

Date	Test Coordinator Checklist
January 7-18, 2008	Registration for **CRT-Alternate** for students new to your system. Details on page 4 of this issue of *JUMP*.
January 28-30,2008	Receive memo mailed by Measured Progress. The memo contains the password necessary for access to the **CRT-Alternate** Test Booklets online.
February 4-5, 2008	Statewide Test Administration Conference
February 4-8, 2008	Download and print: • **CRT-Alternate** Test Administration Manual • **CRT-Alternate** Test Booklets for teachers administering the alternate assessment. **NOTE:** Test Coordinators need the password received January 28 – 30, 2008 fro Measured Progress.
February 7, 2008	**CRT** Administration Manuals posted online.
February 7-11, 2008	Receive **CRT** *Test Coordinators Manual(s)* and Pre-Administration Training CDs and CRT-Alternate Materials Kits and Training CDs mailed by Measured Progress.
February 11-15, 2008	Receive *OPI Test Security Guidelines,* CD with training PowerPoints, and non disclosure forms mailed by OPI
February 19-25, 2008	Receive in separate shipments from Measured Progress • **CRT** testing materials • **CRT-Alternate** student kits for returning the tests
February 11-March 26, 2008	**CRT-Alternate** Assessment testing window
March 3-26, 20908	**CRT** testing window
March 27, 2008	**Last Day to schedule** UPS pickup **CRT** AND **CRT-ALTERNATE** Used Student Response booklets and other testing materials **NOTE:** Please see page 32 of the *2008 CRT Test coordinator's Manual* or page 3 of the *CRT-Alternate Test Administration Manual* for detailed instructions.
March 28, 2008	**Last Day to ship** via UPS used **CRT** AND **CRT-Alternate** Student Response booklets and other test materials to be returned to Measured Progress
April 1, 2008	UPS automatic pickup of all other test materials (if a pickup was not scheduled with UPS before March 27) **NOTE:** Failure to return your answer documents on this date could delay the release of statewide results.
June 2, 2008	Reading and Math summary and rosters reports available online via new online reporting system (MPRS)
August 2008	Science summary and roster reports available online via new online reporting system (MPRS)
September 2008	Receive Reading, Math, and Science Parent Reports and labels shipped by Measured Progress

Recommended CRT Testing Schedules for Spring 2008

Below are tables with the recommended schedules and testing times for the Spring 2008 CRT.

Grades 3-8 Reading	
Day 1	Time Range (in minutes)
General Instructions	5-10
Session 1	45-55
Day 2	
Session 2	45-55
Break	
Session 3	45-55
Grade 10 Reading	
Day 1	Time Range (in minutes)
General Instructions	5-10
Session 1	50-60
Day 2	
Session 2	50-60
Break	
Session 3	50-60
Grades 3-8 Mathematics	
Day 1	Time Range (in minutes)
General Instructions	5-10
Session 1	45-55
Day 2	
Session 2	45-55
Break	
Session 3	45-55
Grade 10 Mathematics	
Day 1	Time Range (in minutes)
General Instructions	5-10
Session 1	50-60
Day 2	
Session 2	50-60
Break	
Session 3	50-60
Grades 4, 8, & 10 Science	
Day 1	Time Range (in minutes)
General Instructions	5-10
Session 1	45-50
Day 2	
Session 2	45-50
Break	
Session 3	45-50
Grades 4, 8, & 10 Science	
Day 1	Time Range (in minutes)
General Instructions	5-10
Session 1	45-50
Day 2	
Session 2	45-50
Break	
Session 3	45-50

Montana Educator Participation in CRT and CRT-Alternate Test Development

The following test development activities are scheduled. We need Montana educators to participate in these and invite requests to participate. A link to the form to request participation is below

http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/Forms/AppParticipate.pdf

Even if you have participated previously, please complete a form indicating your preferred sessions and fax the completed form to Gayle Allen, 406-444-0743.

Lodging is provided for participants living 90 miles away from Helena. In addition, mileage, meals not provided during the sessions, and substitute pay are reimbursed. Renewal units are also available.

May 13-14, 2008, Helena	Item Review, Reading and Math, grades 3-8 and 10 and Science, grades 4, 8, and 10
May 15, 2008, Helena	Bias Review, Reading and Math, grades 3-8 and 10 and Science, grades 4, 8, and 10
June 10 -12, 2008, Helena	Science CRT and CRT-Alternate Standard Setting, grades 4, 8, and 10
July 22-23, 2008, Helena	Item Selection Review, Reading and Math, grades 3-8 and 10 and Science, grades 4, 8, and 10

MontCAS—English Language Proficiency (ELP)

2007-2008 Results

The results from the 2007-08 English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment are on schedule to be shipped to systems which participated in this assessment. The anticipated shipping date is Monday, February 15, 2008.

MontCAS—Other Assessment Information

Testing Contractor Contact Information

- **MontCAS, the CRT and the CRT-Alternate—Measured Progress, Inc.**
  Dan Verdick, Montana CRT Program Manager
  dverdick@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901 x2220
  Nancy Hall, Montana CRT Program Assistant
  nhall@measuredprogress.org or 888-792-2741
  Jake Goldsmith, Montana CRT-Alternate Program Manager
  JGoldsmith@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901 x2239
  Kevin Froton, Montana CRT-Alternate Program Assistant
  kfroton@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901x2196
- **MontCAS, the English Language Proficiency (ELP)—Questar Assessment Inc.**
  BJ Vickery, Program Manager
  bjvickery@questarai.com or 888-854-9596

Information on Upcoming AIM Collections

The Program Participation Collection begins March 1, and focuses on data collection to identify specific student sub-groups and participation in various state and federal programs. This data is used in Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations and for state and federal reporting purposes. All data must be accurate as of the count date of March 12, 2008. The OPI will perform reasonability checks with previous years' data throughout the collection and will contact schools to verify counts that differ significantly. The Program Participation Collection ends March 26, 2008. It is crucial that correct data be entered by this date to ensure AYP sub-group calculations are valid. We ask that Test Coordinators work closely with the school's AIM Specialist to ensure the data collection is completed by the due date.

The Test Window Attendance Collection will be used to collect the aggregate hours and absent counts of all students as of March 12, 2007. If March 12 is not a regularly scheduled school day, please use the next regularly scheduled school day and indicate that date in your school calendar in the Test Count Date field. This data will be used calculate a participation rate for the statewide student assessment. This collection takes place from March 12 through March 26, 2008.

The December issue of *JUMP* (pages 5 – 7) includes more information on AIM collections necessary for the CRT and CRT-Alternate. Below is the link to the December *JUMP*.
http://www.opi.mt.gov/PUB/PDF/Assessment/NewsLetters/Dec07JUMP.pdf

- Gayle Allen, Administrative Specialist, gallen2@mt.gov, 406-444-3511
- Karen Richem, Assessment Specialist, krichem@mt.gov, 406-444-0748
- Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, jsnow@mt.gov, 406-444-3656
- FAX: 406-444-0743